

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

1703024432

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Dr. Beanes' Grave

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

at Marlboro School, on Governor Oden Bowie Drive

CITY, TOWN

Upper Marlboro

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Prince George's

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT  
☐ BUILDING(S)  
☐ STRUCTURE  
☐ SITE  
☒ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC  
☐ PRIVATE  
☐ BOTH  
**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**  
☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED  
☐ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
☒ YES RESTRICTED  
☐ YES UNRESTRICTED  
☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM  
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK  
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS  
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ MILITARY ☒ OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

(grave)

NAME

P.G. Co. School Board?

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Upper Marlboro

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

Liber #:

COURTHOUSE.  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Folio #:

Prince George's County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Upper Marlboro

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# **7 DESCRIPTION**

## CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT  
☒ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED  
☐ ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This is the tomb of Dr. William Beanes. There are two, above-ground burial vaults, and these are enclosed in an iron fence that rests on brick pillars at each corner and the entrance. There is a marker here and out on Rte. 4, at Western Branch.

# **8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Dr. William Beanes (born-1749, died-1828) was a patriot and surgeon during the Revolutionary War. When the British made their headquarters at his house here (no longer standing), in the War of 1812, he was taken prisoner. It was to gain his release that Francis Scott Key visited the British fleet in Baltimore harbor, and subsequently was inspired to write our National Anthem.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

- 1) Shreve, James. SOUVENIR BOOK & 250th ANNIVERSARY OF UPPER MARLBORO, (May, 1971), pp. 33-35.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Michael F. Dwyer, Senior Park Historian

ORGANIZATION

M-NCPPC

DATE

4/17/73

STREET & NUMBER

8787 Georgia Ave.

TELEPHONE

589-1480

CITY OR TOWN

Silver Spring

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

BISHOP THOMAS JOHN CLAGGETT

Thomas John Claggett was born in October of 1743 near Nottingham in Prince George's County. He received his higher education at Princeton University in the early and middle 1760's. Claggett was the first to use the double "g" in spelling his family's name. In 1792 at Trinity Church in New York he became the first Episcopal bishop consecrated in America. In 1800 Bishop Claggett became Chaplain of the United States Senate and in 1810 he founded Trinity Episcopal Church in Upper Marlborough. Bishop Thomas John Claggett died at his home near Croom on August 3, 1816.

THOMAS SIM LEE

Thomas Sim Lee was born on October 29, 1745 near Upper Marlborough and at a young age commenced his public career. From 1767 to 1777 he served as Clerk of the Prince George's County Court which held its sessions in Upper Marlborough. In 1777 Lee was selected as a member of the Maryland Governor's Council and continued in that office until 1779, when he was elected Governor of Maryland. Thomas Sim Lee remained as Governor until 1782; he was elected Governor again in 1792 and served until 1794. Lee was elected Governor yet another time in 1798, but he declined the high office. Other highlights in Lee's public career included: delegate to the Continental Congress from Maryland, 1783 to 1784; Frederick County representative at the Convention of Maryland which ratified the Federal Constitution in April of 1788; and U. S. Presidential Elector from Maryland in 1792. Thomas Sim Lee died in Frederick County on October 9, 1819, but was buried at Mellwood Park, the ancestral home of his wife Mary located several miles outside of Upper Marlborough. Lee's remains were reinterred in 1888 at Mount Carmel Catholic Cemetery on present day Route 408 in the outskirts of Upper Marlborough.

DOCTOR WILLIAM BEANES

Doctor William Beanes was born in Upper Marlborough on January 25, 1749. Contrary to popular belief he was not a Scottish immigrant, nor were his father or grandfather; all three were born on this side of the Atlantic. Beanes became one of the leading patriots in Prince George's County prior to the American Revolution and during the Revolution he served as a surgeon to the American troops. Later in life Dr. Beanes was a senior warden of Trinity Episcopal Church in Upper Marlborough; however, he is remembered mainly for his passive role in the writing of the "Star Spangled Banner".

It was the safe release of Dr. Beanes that Francis Scott Key sought when he went on board the British flagship in Chesapeake Bay in 1814. Because the British were about to attack Fort McHenry, Key was forced to stay on ship until the siege was over. What Key saw during and after the bombardment inspired him to write the "Star Spangled Banner". Dr. Beanes had been captured by the British following the burning of Washington during the War of 1812, because he and several other Prince Georgians had had the "nerve" to imprison British stragglers in the Upper Marlborough jail. Dr. William Beanes died in Upper Marlborough on October 12, 1828.

#### REVERDY JOHNSON

Reverdy Johnson was born on May 21, 1796 in Annapolis - the son of John Johnson, a noted Maryland attorney and judge. Johnson was admitted to the bar in 1816 and began his practice of law in Upper Marlborough. His first law office stood on the corner of present day Water Street and Main and was still in existence as late as 1915.

Reverdy Johnson's public career was a long and varied one. He served as Deputy Attorney General of Maryland in 1816 and 1817, was a member of the Maryland Senate from 1821 to 1826, and represented Maryland in the U. S. Senate from 1845 to 1849. In 1849 President Zachary Taylor selected Johnson to be his Attorney General; however, Taylor died after only four months in office and his successor Millard Fillmore chose John Crittenden to replace Reverdy Johnson as Attorney General. Johnson was elected to the Maryland Senate in 1860 and in 1863 he was again chosen by the Maryland electorate to represent them in the U. S. Senate. He remained in the Senate until 1868 when he resigned in order to accept an appointment by President Andrew Johnson as U. S. Minister to England. Reverdy Johnson died while on business in Annapolis on February 10, 1876.

#### THOMAS GEORGE PRATT

Thomas George Pratt was born on February 18, 1804 in Georgetown. He was admitted to the bar in Prince George's County in 1823 and like Reverdy Johnson commenced the practice of law in Upper Marlborough, where he took up residence. He represented Prince George's County in the Maryland House of Delegates from 1832 to 1835 and was a U. S. Presidential Elector from Maryland in 1836. Pratt served as President of the last Maryland Governor's Council in 1838 and from 1838 to 1843 he held a seat in the Maryland Senate. Thomas Pratt continued during this time to reside in Upper Marlborough, except while the Maryland legislature was in session. He did; however,

formed by present-day Main and Pratt Streets.

5.) The Buck House property was always referred to in eighteenth and nineteenth century deeds as being near the courthouse - meaning near either the first or second Upper Marlborough courthouses and not the present courthouse.

6.) Both John Carroll and his brother Daniel Carroll of Rock Creek were born before their father sold the 4 3/4 acres of ground with a dwelling house to James Wardrop in 1741 - Daniel was born in 1730 and John in 1735.

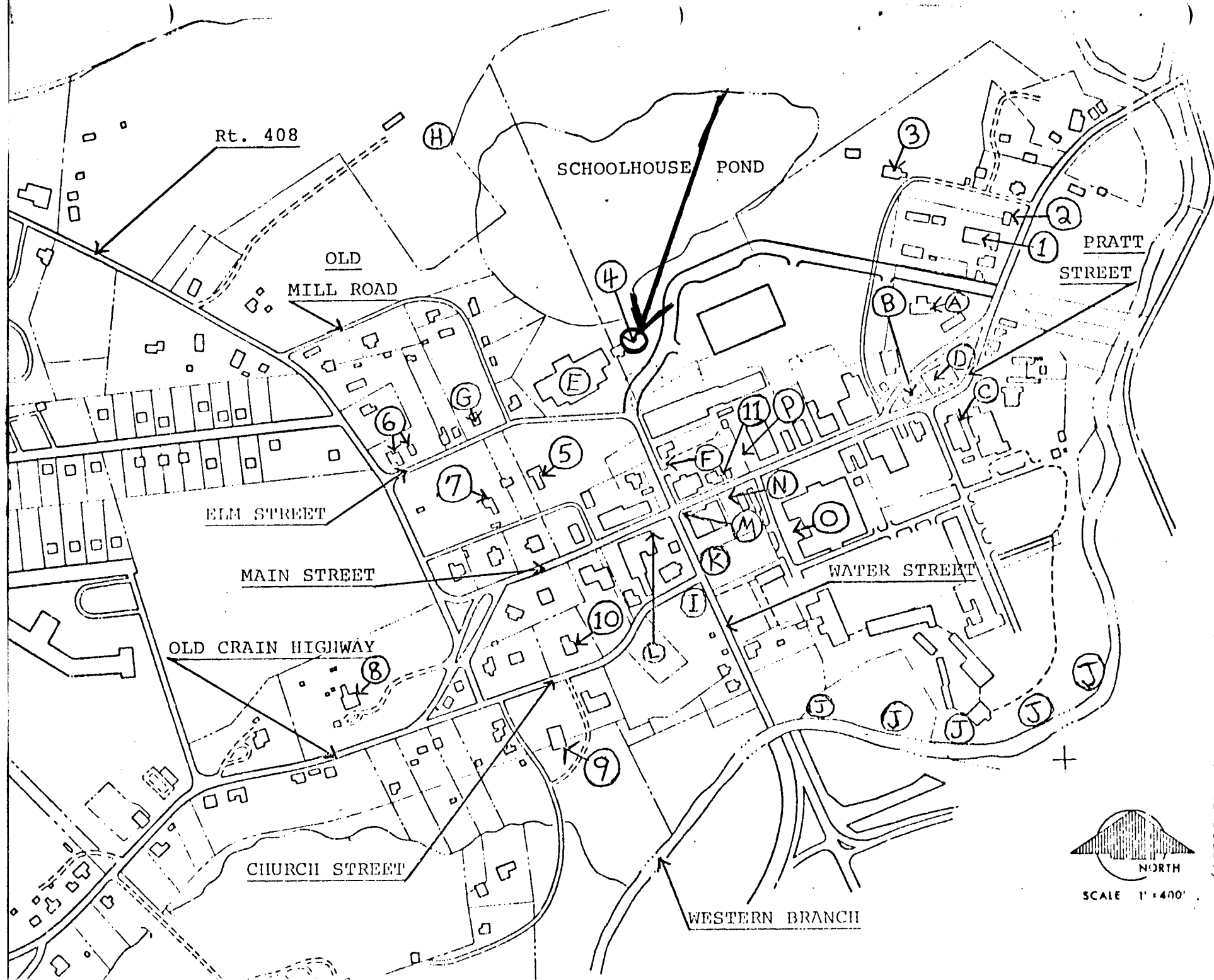
Following the death of merchant James Wardrop in 1760, the Buck house property changed hands numerous times. Included among its later owners were at least four more Upper Marlborough merchants: John Hodges of Thomas, Horatio C. Scott, Edward Grafton W. Hall, and Harry Buck.

In closing this description of the Buck House, I would like to quote an ad in the August 2, 1787 issue of the Maryland Gazette which describes the property:

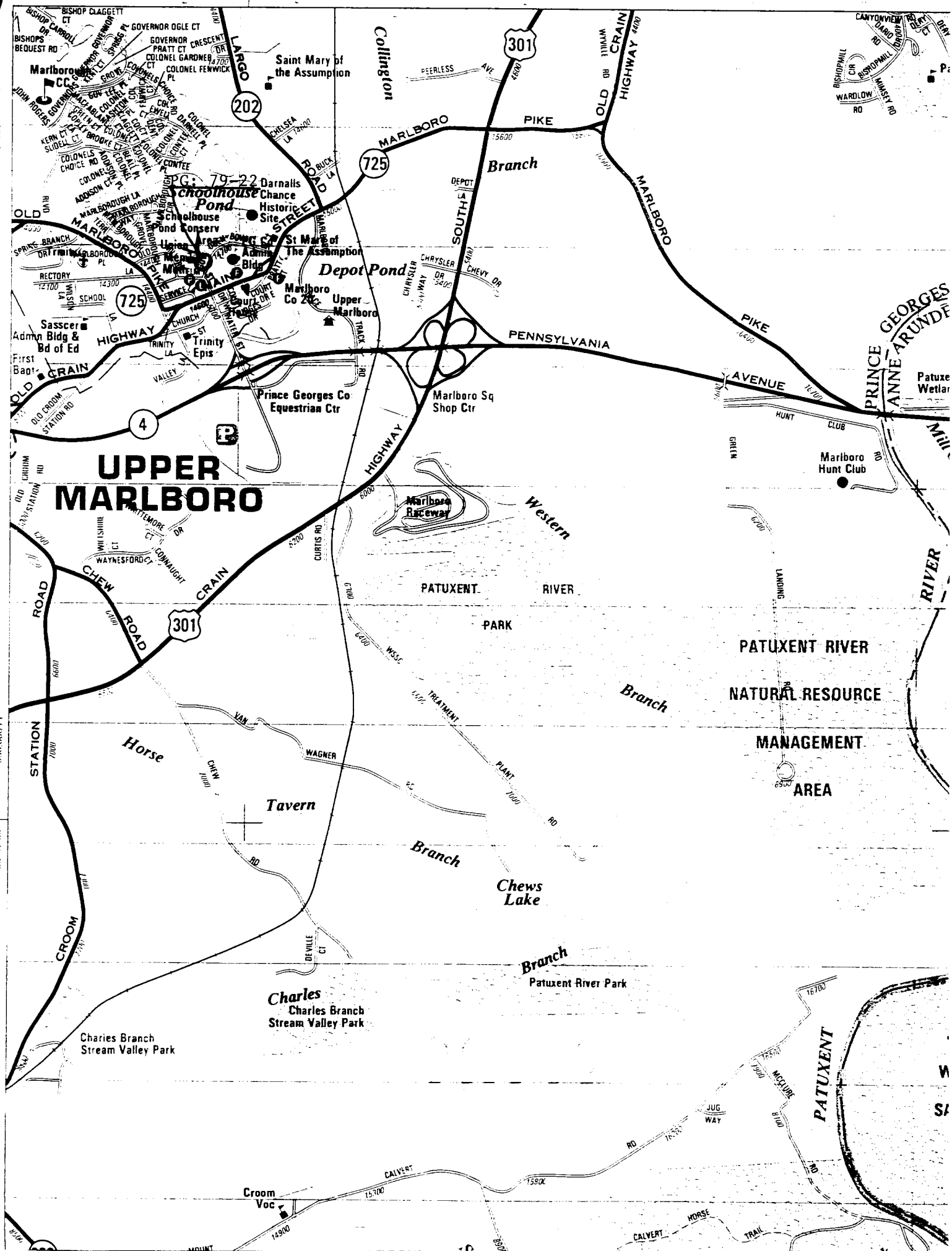
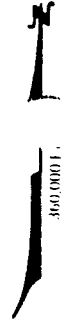
"The improvements are very good, and perhaps constructed on as convenient a plan as any buildings in the state-The dwelling house is of brick, 55 front and 35 feet wide, with a passage of 15 feet, four rooms on the first floor, with fire places in each, and a number of conveniences-Four rooms above, a passage and several very convenient closets-a kitchen under the dwelling-house, with a large cellar, vault, and other conveniences;-a wash house 16 feet by 14-a dry-well, 40 feet deep;-a milk house 12 feet square; an office or study 17 feet by 14, all brick and well finished; a well built wood stable and carriage house, 30 feet by 18, with several other very necessary out-houses;-garden and yards well enclosed, and a very goodwill of water;-a small orchard of apple trees, and a variety of other fruit trees."

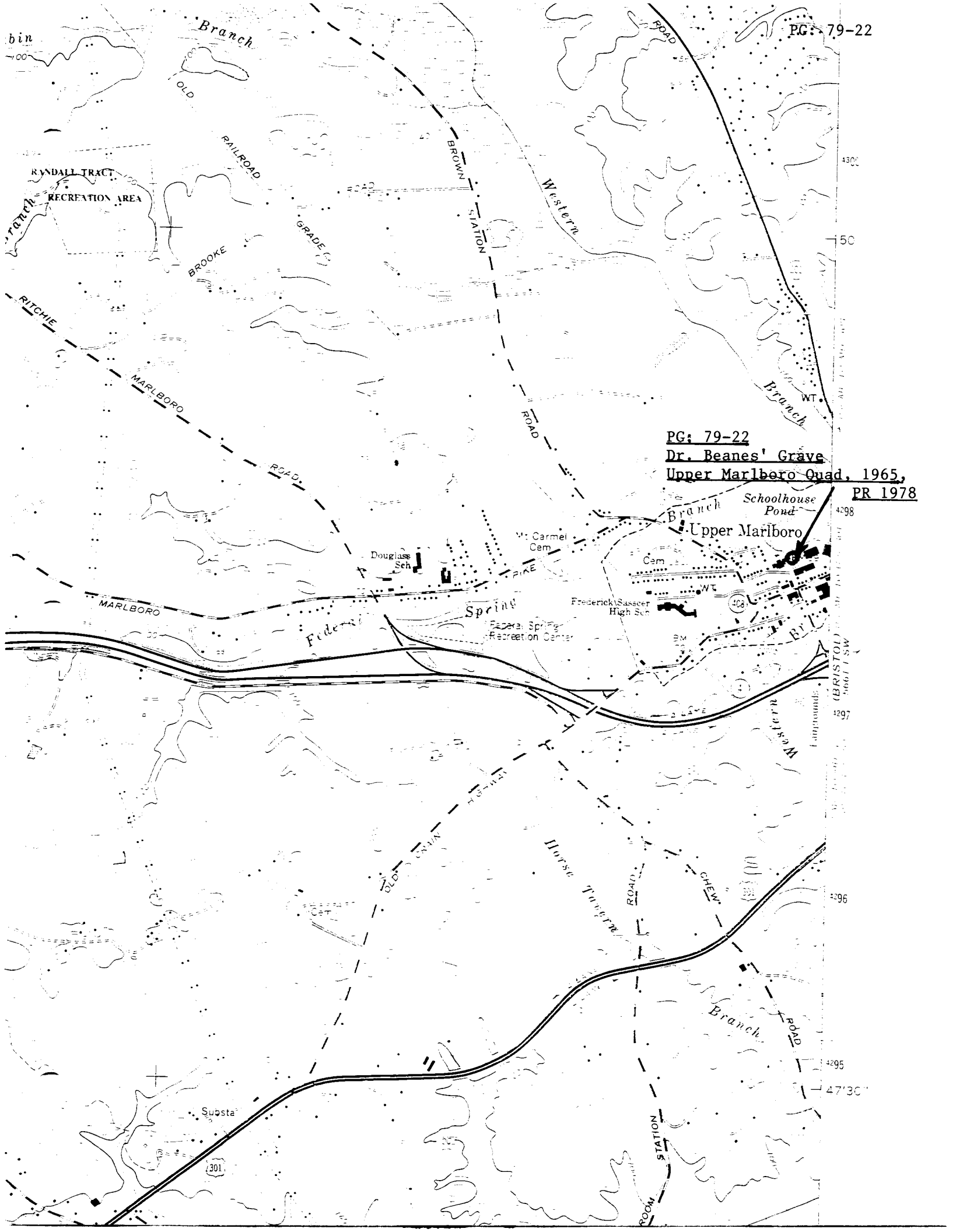
#### 4. DR. WILLIAM BEANE'S GRAVE

Doctor William Beanes died on October 12, 1828 and is buried on this site. His dwelling house stood nearby. For more information on Dr. Beanes, see Chapter Two of this guide.









PG: 79-22

PG: 79-22  
Dr. Beanes' Grave  
Upper Marlboro Quad, 1965,  
PR 1978

(BRISTOL)  
4297 SW

Virta, Alan

1984 Prince George's County: a Pictorial  
History. Norfolk: Donning Co. P. 99

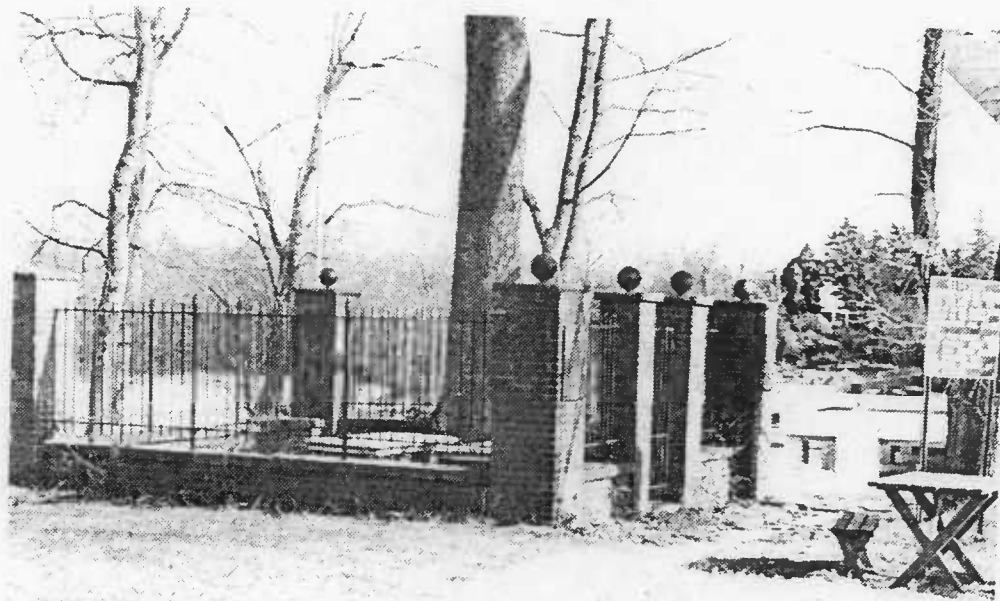
On August 28, after returning to their ships, the British sent a party back to Upper Marlboro to seize Dr. William Beanes, a prominent resident of that town. Along with former governor Robert Bowie, Beanes had led a small force of Prince Georgians who had captured and jailed several British stragglers. The British, in turn, seized Bowie, Beanes, and several other townspeople as hostages. When the British stragglers were released, so were the Americans—all except Dr. Beanes, who was taken to Baltimore. The government sent Francis

Scott Key (a Georgetown lawyer from an old Maryland family) to the British to negotiate for the release of Dr. Beanes. There, with Beanes, he witnessed the bombardment of Fort McHenry and was inspired to write "The Star Spangled Banner," our national anthem. This is one of many likenesses of Francis Scott Key; there are no known extant portraits of Dr. Beanes. The doctor and his wife were buried in Upper Marlboro on the schoolhouse hill high above town. Courtesy of the Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division



General Leonard Covington (1768-1813), a native of Prince George's County, was killed during the War of 1812 at the Battle of Sackett's Harbor, New York. Covington was born at Aquasco, the family plantation on the Patuxent River. After the death of his wife and only child, Covington became an officer in the U.S. Army, serving from 1792 to 1795 and again from 1809 until his death. He was elected to the state senate and the United States Congress during the break in his military career. His was an old Prince George's County family; his great-grandfather, Levin Covington, was a justice of the county court and built the first courthouse in Upper Marlboro.

In 1810, while in command of troops near Natchez, Mississippi, Leonard Covington acquired a plantation he named Propinquity. There he intended to settle permanently, near Covington, Wailes, and Magruder kinsmen from Prince George's County. A good many Prince Georgians moved to the old Southwest during the antebellum era; they also settled in Kentucky, Missouri, and Texas in large numbers. This portrait of Leonard Covington appeared in *Memoir of Leonard Covington*, written by B. L. C. Wailes in 1861 and published in 1928. Courtesy of C. Segrest Wailes



EARLY 20th C  
possesses a  
appearing fro

**DR. BEANES' GRAVE SITE**—This site is the "final" resting place of one of early Upper Marlboro's most notable and interesting residents. Dr. Beanes, despite his accomplishments medically and otherwise prior to the War of 1812, is best known for his role in the *Star Spangled Banner*-Fort McHenry scenario of American history. It was Dr. Beanes' release that Francis Scott Key sought when he went to Baltimore to confer with British officers; Key himself was held captive by the British aboard one of their ships while the seige of Fort McHenry took place. During his captivity, Francis Scott Key composed our National Anthem.

